

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Madsen on 11/04/2011.

34. A method of preparing a sizing composition for paper manufacture comprising:

(a) providing a cationic liquid starchy composition having:

- a dry matter of between 10 and 50%,
- a viscosity, determined according to a T test, of at least equal to 275 mPa.s and at most equal to 930 mPa.s,

- a total nitrogen level at least equal to 0.6% and at most equal to 1.4%, these percentages being

expressed by dry weight with respect to the dry weight of the composition, and

- a pH of between 3.5 and less than 9;

(b) diluting the cationic liquid starchy composition to a dry matter value of between 0.5 and 9%; and

(c) mixing the diluted cationic liquid starchy composition with a sizing agent comprising alkenylsuccinic anhydride to obtain a resulting composition.

42. (currently amended) The method of claim 34, further comprising (d) submitting the resulting composition to a ~~high~~ shearing treatment ~~for at least 5 minutes~~ at a rate of at least 20 000 revolutions/minute for at least 5 minutes.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The instant application discloses a process of making a sizing composition by diluting a specific starch composition set forth in claim 34. The declaration submitted on 09/06/2011 proves that the specific starch composition has a superior property compared to that of the prior art of WO 01/96403.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHUANGYI ABU ALI whose telephone number is (571)272-6453. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry Lorengo can be reached on 571-272-1233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Shuangyi Abu-Ali/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1731